(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) This year, a number of States have reported drought situation of varying magnitude. Rajasthan has declared drought in parts of 25 districts in the State. In response to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking assistance of Rs. 2378.64 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and 28.80 lakh MTs of foodgrains for relief employment, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State recently and its report is under preparation. The entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2004-2005 amounting to Rs. 188.71 crores has been released to the State. As interim assistance 2 lakh MTs of foodgrains have also been allocated free of cost.

Kharif Production

1610. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kharif output will be lessar than that of 2003-04 because of decrease in Kharif area coverage by a significant 6 million hectares during 2004-05;

(b) whether Government apprehends that heat stress caused by raising temperature would adversely affect the ensuring Rabi crops; and

(c) whether Government are working on the hindsight gained from decreased Kharif output, to evolve corrective strategy for the Rabi season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) In 2003-04 the area under Kharif foodgrains, Kharif oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, jute & mesta was 102 million hectares, which declined by 5 million hectares to 97 million hectares during Kharif season of 2004-2005. As a onsequence, the Kharif production of foodgrains and other commercial

crops has also declined in 2004-2005 as shown below:

(In Million Tonnes)

Crops	Production	
	2003-04$	2004-05 $$
Kharif Foodgrains	112.05	100.29
Kharif Oilseeds	17.01	15.45
Cotton*	13.79	13.85
Sugarcane	236.18	235.45
Jute & Mesta**	11.20	10.76

* Million Bales of 170 kgs. each

** Million Bales of 180 kgs. each.

$- Fourth Advance Estimates for 2003-2004

$$- First Advance Estimates for 2004-2005

(b) As per records of the India Meterological Department , since mid-November 2004, temperatures were 1—4° C above normal in some parts of the country, and normal/less than normal in rest of the country. The rise in temperature has not been serious enough to adversely affect the ensuing Rabi crops.

(c) In order to increase the production during Rabi season the Government has taken the following steps:

Rai Campaign, 2004-05—In advertising campaign for maximizing Rabi production has been undertaken during November, 2004 all over the country, by educating farmers about better cultivation practices.

Reward Scheme—An Incentive Scheme to give reward to States showing best performance for Rabi production in this reason has also been prepared by the Government.

Kisan Call Centre Facility—A toll free calling facility on telephone No. 1551 has been created all over the country . A farmer can dial this toll

free No. from anywhere and avail information and knowledge about any issue relating to agriculture. To popularize this facility among the farmers a publicity campaign has been launched through Doordarshan and All India Radio by releasing video spots/audio spots and also by releasing the advertisements in selected newspapers throughout the country.

Scheme for Mass Media Support for Agriculture Extension—Kisan T.V. Channel and Kisanvani programmes have been launched through Doordarshan and All India Radio respectively to provide up-to-date know-how to the farmers on agricultural practices and technology in a locality specific manner.

Exhibition and Krishi Melas—The Government has been showcasing latest developments in the field of agriculture in various parts of the country through National level/State level Krishi melas for the benefit of the farmers.

Special Schemes are being implemented to motivate women farmers in adopting latest technology and forming Self-Help groups to avail micro-credit facility etc. This is expected to further boost Rabi production this season in the country.

Drought relief to Andhra Pradesh

1611. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have in month of July, sanctioned Rs. 100 crores as a drought relief to Andhra Pradesh and other States;

(b) if so, the total amount provided to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the total demand made by that State;

(d) to what extent that State has urged Government to provide more; and

(e) the Centre's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a Memorandum in the month of September, 2004, seeking